

ABSTRACT

The present invention employs novel phase control for a fixing heater, which uses first and second heaters, to reduce the generation of a higher harmonic wave current and a power line terminal noise. With four consecutive half wavelengths (two cycles) of a power supply voltage employed as a period, two half waves are used for phase control and other two half waves are made full ON or full OFF for each of the first and second heaters and, at the same time, the phase control is performed complementarily to both the heaters. That is, for each half wave, when the power is turned on with the phase control of one heater, the other heater is made full ON or full OFF. This causes turn-on switching to occur only on at most one heater in a half wave period. As a result, as compared with usual phase control, a power-supply higher-harmonic-wave current and a power line terminal noise are reduced.